

the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, an Air Medal With Valor device, and the Combat Action Badge.

Corey Goodnature was survived by his wife, Lori; his sons, Shea and Brennan; and his parents, Deb and Don Goodnature of Clarks Grove, Minnesota. He had many friends and relatives throughout my district in southern Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, Corey died doing something that he deeply believed in, and he is a true hero to our Nation, to his family, and to his friends. We are all grateful for Corey's undeniable dedication and sacrifice, as well as those who he served with and died with. This dedication allows all of us to enjoy the freedoms and liberty of this great Nation. The world has suffered a great loss. We lost a great man; and his friends and relatives lost a son, a husband, a father, brother, uncle, Godfather, and loyal friend.

Less than 2 weeks before he died and exactly 1 month before he was buried, Corey sent a simple prayer to his wife, a prayer that I am honored to share with my colleagues today. He wrote: "Lord, continue to bless Lori and help us to grow and strengthen our bond as a family separated by distance, whether it be me, here, Lori by herself, or Shea and Brennan, wherever life takes them. I believe You have a glorious plan for us, and we honor You as the source of our happiness and success. In Your name we pray, Amen."

May the Lord of our fathers find His mercy upon Lori and all of the friends and relatives of Corey Goodnature. May He continue to bless America and all the brave Americans who defend her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

POLITICAL SCANDAL PLAGUES OHIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as those listening might recall, the 2004 Presidential election was decided in Ohio, my home State, and the margin in the Presidential race was razor thin. But if you have been paying attention to Ohio newspapers of late, you know that there is a broad and widening major political scandal in Ohio that relates to the last election. People who have paid attention to Ohio or live in Ohio can read about it on the Web site of our local newspaper; the toledoblade.com is the site.

But what this concerns is that the highest elected officials in Ohio, starting with the Governor of Ohio, the Attorney General of Ohio, the auditor of Ohio, the Secretary of State of Ohio, were all in receipt of campaign contributions from an individual who is now charged with diverting millions of dollars from the State of Ohio's Workers' Compensation trust fund for personal use and for political use. There is a grand jury that has been empaneled in Ohio now involving the northern and southern districts of Ohio, looking at the diversion of some of these dollars to the Bush campaign. It is a broad and widening scandal, as I have said.

Then, today, the Secretary of State of Ohio is mentioned in articles that were published by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and by the Columbus Dispatch in our capital city, and I will just read a couple of the lines: The Board of Elections of our capital city, and that, of course, is Columbus, Ohio, the Franklin County Board docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting \$10,000 in his office last year from a consultant from the voting machine company Diebold, with which we have had so many fights over the last 2 years, trying to get verified, auditable paper trails in those voting machines.

Now, it appears that that company, through its consultant, actually walked into the office of the director of the Board of Elections and wrote a check for \$10,000, which the director of the board was a little reluctant to accept, but said, well, why don't you write it out to the local political party, the Republican Party of Columbus Ohio, Franklin County, which was done.

Well, now, this has been all discovered, and the investigation of what has transpired with the Secretary of State's office and Diebold and this County Board of Elections is being investigated.

One of our State senators from Ohio, Senator Teresa Fedor, has sent a letter to the Office of the United States Attorney in northern Ohio requesting a formal investigation of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell regarding possible violations of Federal law, including, but not limited to, the Hobbs Act, regarding improper dealings between the Secretary of State's office and Diebold Election Systems, or their agents.

She goes on, and I will place the full letter in the RECORD, to ask the Inspector General to look at a series of conflict of interest questions here and the gravity of pay-to-play allegations, to determine whether Mr. Blackwell, the Secretary of State, violated Federal law by accepting campaign contributions in exchange for official acts. Because, Mr. Speaker, if you look at what has been happening in Ohio, there has absolutely been a preference for the Diebold machines; there have been delays, there have been all kinds of efforts made to advantage one company over other companies.

I want to place some of these news articles in the RECORD tonight. Also, there is a huge court case pending between a company called ESS, which is another company that has voting machines, and Diebold Corporation. That is in the courts. Our Secretary of State is saying, oh, you have to pick these machines, you have to pick the Diebold machines; they are the only machines that we have certified without giving other machines an equal chance.

What is interesting about this is that Ohio has received \$136,552,794 over the last 2 years to purchase these machines, so there is Federal taxpayer dollars involved, and another \$44,616,967 for training of election officials. None of those training dollars have been spent, but \$136 million has gone out for hardware in a very narrow process where one company has been so very advantaged.

So I just wanted to draw people's attention to what is going on in the State of Ohio, to the ongoing court case, to the false deadlines set by our Secretary of State, now by the investigation that has been requested by our very high-ranking senators of the U.S. Attorney in Ohio, and I commend listeners to the toledoblade.com Web site to the developing political scandal in the State of Ohio.

[From the Blade Columbus Bureau, July 19, 2005]

ELECTIONS CHIEF PUNISHED FOR TAKING CHECK

FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICIAL ACCEPTED \$10,000
ON BEHALF OF GOP FROM DIEBOLD CONSULTANT
(By Jim Provance)

COLUMBUS.—The Franklin County Board of Elections yesterday docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting a 10,000 check in his office last year from a Diebold Inc. consultant seeking county business.

Matt Damschroder accepted the check on behalf of the county Republican Party.

He came forward after a Diebold competitor, Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software, sought to depose him as part of a lawsuit alleging special treatment for Diebold on the part of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell.

Mr. Blackwell plans to seek the GOP nomination for governor in 2006.

His office denied any connection between campaign contributions and his decisions affecting Diebold.

Diebold's device has the only computerized touch-screen machine so far to win state certification for its paper-receipt backup system.

Such a system was mandated last year by the Ohio General Assembly.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien had suggested that Mr. Damschroder be fired. He would not confirm yesterday that an investigation was under way.

According to Mr. Damschroder, political consultant Pasquale "Pat" Gallina, who works for consultants Celebrezze & Associates, walked uninvited into his office in January, 2004, on the day the board was considering a contract for voter-registration software. He offered to make out a check to him on the spot.

Mr. Damschroder said he instead accepted a "voluntary" contribution to the county GOP. A former executive director for the party, Mr. Damschroder accepted the check even though the law prohibits using government property for political business.

"I don't believe I committed a crime," he said. "I think I did something that would best be described as a lapse of judgment and clearly in the gray area . . . The biggest thing I wish I had done was throw the guy out on that day he came in and certainly not have taken physical receipt of the contribution."

The county has joined the ES&S lawsuit, which seeks to break Diebold's monopoly on touch-screen machines available to counties.

Celebrezze & Associates is on a monthly retainer for Diebold.

"Any contribution he made was on behalf of Celebrezze & Associates and of his own volition," said Diebold spokesman Mike Jacobson. "Diebold had no knowledge of any such contribution."

"Diebold does not condone any political contributions made on its behalf, implied or otherwise," he said. "In particular, our company's ethics policy restricts political contributions since June, 2004."

That policy was, in part, a reaction to a letter authored by Walden O'Dell, chief executive officer of Diebold, Inc., of North Canton, Ohio. In the letter, Mr. O'Dell promised to help deliver Ohio to President George Bush, triggering a firestorm during the presidential election campaign.

The Lucas County Board of Elections has selected Diebold to supply its touch-screen machines. A review of filings with the county elections bureau by the county Republican and Democratic parties revealed no contributions from Mr. Gallina.

In a phone conversation that took place a year after the contribution to the party, Mr. Damschroder said Mr. Gallina bragged that he had been given \$50,000 to Blackwell interests and worked with Blackwell campaign adviser Norm Cummings to position Diebold for state business.

"I have never asked, accepted, received, or was offered any money [from Mr. Gallina], period," Mr. Cummings said.

Mr. Gallina, of Reynoldsburg, could not be reached for comment, but he told the Associated Press there was no \$50,000 contribution for Mr. Blackwell and that the \$10,000 to the county party was his own money.

Mr. Gallina has given a total of \$8,000 to Mr. Blackwell's campaigns since 1998, according to records filed with the secretary of state. Also in January, 2004, he gave \$10,000 to Citizens for Tax Reform, a Blackwell-backed group that unsuccessfully sought to force repeal of a temporary penny-on-the-dollar sales-tax surcharge enacted in 2003.

Blackwell spokesman Carlo LoParo said Mr. Blackwell made several decisions adverse to Diebold, negotiating contracts at first with four manufacturers of touch-screen and optical-scan voting machines to give counties a menu from which to choose.

Later, after lawmakers enacted the requirement for the voter-verified paper audit trail, Mr. Blackwell took all touch-screen devices, including Diebold's, off the table because none had been certified as meeting the new mandate.

Mr. Blackwell later reversed position when Diebold's receipt-equipped machine won federal and state approval.

"It wasn't the secretary of state who forwarded the VVPAT requirement," Mr. LoParo said. "It wasn't the secretary of state who prevented vendors from meeting that requirement. From the beginning, this process has been transparent and fair."

Sen. Teresa Fedor (D., Toledo) yesterday urged U.S. Attorney Gregory White to investigate Mr. Blackwell's dealing with Diebold. "We need to get to the bottom of this," she said. "I don't care if it was \$50,000 or \$5, you're not supposed to be able to buy influence in America."

Mr. Damschroder said the loss of 30 days' pay will cost him \$11,220. William Anthony, Jr., chairman of the Franklin County elections board and that county's Democratic Party, said the board believes there was no criminal intent on Mr. Damschroder's part.

As for Mr. Gallina, Mr. Anthony said, "If somebody gives you a check for \$10,000, I guess they would want something."

THE OHIO STATE SENATE,
Cleveland, Ohio, June 18, 2005.

GREGORY WHITE, Esq.,
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Office of the U.S. Attorney, Cleveland, Ohio.

DEAR ATTORNEY WHITE: I am contacting you to ask that you be in a formal investigation of Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell and his cabinet regarding possible violations of the federal law, including, but not limited to, The Hobbs Act, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1951. Questions have been raised by both The Columbus Dispatch and The Cleveland Plain Dealer regarding possible improper dealings between the Secretary of State's office and Diebold Election Systems and/or their agents.

The Hobbs Act was meant to prohibit corruption by elected officials. As you know, the Act prohibits "obtaining the property from another, with his consent . . . under color of official right," 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1951(b)(2). The United States Supreme Court has held that an elected official violates the Hobbs Act if the "public official has obtained a payment to which he was not entitled, knowing that the payment was made in return for official acts." *Evans v. United States*, 112 S. Ct. 1881, 1889 (1992). The Court went on to say that "the offense is completed at the time when the public official receives a payment in return for his agreement to perform specific official acts; fulfillment of the quid pro quo is not an element of the offense." *Id.*

According to Franklin County Board of Elections Executive Director Matthew Damschroder, officials or agents of Diebold Election Systems, including lobbyist Pasquale Gallina, allegedly made a deal with Secretary of State Blackwell, and/or his associates, that Diebold would receive a substantial or exclusive rights to supply electronic voting machines to the State of Ohio in exchange for a substantial donation to "Blackwell's political interests." If this is, in fact, what happened, it appears to be a clear violation of federal law. Even if no quid pro quo existed, Mr. Gallina's alleged \$10,000 payment to "Citizens for Tax Repeal," of which Blackwell is Honorary Chair, raises significant conflict of interest questions.

Because of the gravity of these "pay-to-play" allegations, I urge your office to fully investigate to determine whether Mr. Blackwell violated federal law by accepting campaign contributions in exchange for official acts. This immediate investigation is necessary to fully protect the taxpayers of Ohio and the sanctity of government procurement in the State. If these allegations are true, no business in the country can

trust that they will have fair dealings with Ohio. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

TERESA FEDOR,
State Senator, 11th District.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOE WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks, once again, there has been no shortage of a man named Mr. Joe Wilson on television. Who is Mr. Joe Wilson? Why would he want to use false claims to attack this Bush administration?

Mr. Joe Wilson endorsed Senator JOHN KERRY in October of 2003. According to media sources, Mr. Joe Wilson contributed \$2,000 to the Kerry campaign in the same year. The Boston Globe has reported that Mr. Wilson spoke to the Kerry campaign at least once a week during the campaign.

□ 2215

Well, he himself has even said that he advised the Kerry campaign on foreign policy. So now this Kerry supporter and adviser is on television pointing fingers at the administration he despises.

Now, during my tenure as a judge, credibility of witnesses could usually be judged by seeking to learn if the witness had a bias. Obviously this witness has quite a bias. It has also been reported that he and his wife supported Albert Gore for President against George W. Bush in 2000. The motive for bias seems to deepen.

The press has reported Mr. Joe Wilson was, in fact, the last U.S. diplomat to meet with Saddam Hussein in 1991. He was also the envoy sent to Africa to investigate reports that the Iraqi President had tried to buy nuclear material there. Was it possible he hated President Bush so much that it got in the way of his ability to assess the facts and actions and motives of his old acquaintance, Mr. Saddam Hussein?

Perhaps his intentions were loyal to the security of the United States in 1991, but if that is the case, while serving as an official envoy to Niger, as he claims, it appears he brazenly spoke out publicly against our own administration.

The Senate Intelligence Committee found that Mr. Wilson's report, "rather than debunking intelligence about purported uranium sales to Iraq, actually